

REMARKS AND ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 12, 13 and 20-72 are pending in the application.

Applicants appreciate the indication that the current rejections of claims 1, 12 and 13 are withdrawn.

With regard to the restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. 121, in order to be responsive to this requirement applicants elect the invention of group I., namely claims 1, 12, 13, 20-29 and 31-63 (applicants presume that the Examiner meant to state "12" instead of "23" in item 3 of the Office Action).

With regard to the further requirement to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable, applicants elect species B: "stimulating" embodiment, upon which claims 1, 12, 13, 20-24, 26-29, 31-39, 41-48, 50 and 53-63 read.

Although the Examiner has indicated that no claims are generic, applicants respectfully submit that claim 48 is generic. In particular, claim 48 covers species A "sensing and transducing" by its recitation of "means for sensing..." (see also, for example, claim 49, wherein said probe unit is adapted to sense various parameters); species B "stimulating" by its recitation of "means for affecting" (see also, for example, claim 53, which indicates that said means for affecting comprises means for stimulating); species C "medicating" by its recitation of "means for affecting..." (see also, for example, claim 52, wherein said means for affecting comprises means adapted to deliver medication); and

species D "sampling" by its recitation of a "probe unit" (see also, for example, claim 51, wherein said probe unit is adapted to sample cervical fluid).

The foregoing elections are made with traverse.

Applicants have attempted to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action. However, should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, or wish to discuss the merits of the application, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call from him in order to be able to resolve any outstanding issues and to expedite placement of the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Becker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Robert W. Becker, Reg. 26,255
Attorney for Applicants

ROBERT W. BECKER & ASSOCIATES
707 State Hwy 333, Suite B
Tijeras, NM 87059-7507
Telephone: (505) 286-3511
Facsimile: (505) 286-3524